

March 12, 2009

Thomas P. Gaffey, Co-Chair
Andrew M. Fleishmann, Co-Chair
Education Committee
Room 3100, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Regarding Raised Bill # 6666, Section 7

An act requiring School Districts to utilize Board Certified Behavior Analysts when an individual education plan includes applied behavior analytic services as part of a students special education plan.

To Whom It May Concern:

I am person who works with children with autism and I am in support of Raised Bill # 6666, Section 7. I support this bill because it is necessary to ensure that children with autism receive a free and appropriate education implemented by qualified professionals. Autism now affects roughly 1 in 150 children in the United States. It is mandated by the federal law, IDEA 2004, that special education be based upon strategies that have been validated by peer-reviewed research and to date the only intervention that has empirical evidence that is effective are those instructional strategies based upon Applied Behavior Analysis. There are safeguards in place for consumers of a wide variety of services including hair stylists and backhoe operators, however people working with some of our most disabled students are not monitored in any way. I am hoping you will join our effort to protect the health and well being of the children we cherish.

Thank you,



Marisa D'Amico
31 Harrison Drive
Hamden, Ct 06514